

**Jingle Bells**

Children, parents
celebrate holiday
with special
party

Page 11

Fort Riley Post

**Company level hoops**

Teams start play in
three leagues

Page 15

Friday, December 17, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

Vol. 47, No. 50

Around The Army

Fort Knox:

The Turret reported Dec. 2 that more than \$4 million in road repair efforts has been placed under contract since 2001. Work done to roads in the past and coming in the near future include:

For more on this story and other Fort Knox news, visit www.thecenterpost.com/articles/2004/12/16/turret-on-the-Web.

Fort Belvoir:

The Eagle reported Dec. 9 that former prisoner of war Shoshana N. Johnson visited the Army Materiel Command Dec. 1 to discuss her experience in Iraq and her time in service. Johnson is identified by Army officials as the first female POW of Operation



Shoshana
Johnson

Iraqi Freedom and the first black female POW in U.S. war history.

For more on this story and other Fort Belvoir news, visit www.belvoirreport.com/on-the-Web.

Fort Jackson:

The Leader reported Dec. 9 that within the next two weeks, thousands of Soldiers at Training and Doctrine Command schools would begin packing up and preparing to move during the annual break from training known as the Holiday Exodus.

Holiday Exodus is a two-week period in which Soldiers who are assigned to the Army's training centers are allowed to return home for the holidays.

All the Army's training centers are regulated by the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, headquartered at Fort Monroe, Va. This year's exodus is scheduled to take place Dec. 20 through Jan. 3, 2005.

For more about this story and other Fort Jackson news, visit www.fortjacksonleader.com/on-the-Web.

Walter Reed:

The Stripe reported Dec. 10 that Maj. John Nerges managed to fit 40 students into a cramped intensive care unit room while taking care of a Medical Intensive Care Unit patient, he led a class of about 40 nursing students through every step of a typical morning shift.

The MICU head nurse's actions didn't compromise patient safety with an overcrowded room, though.

He was conducting a "virtual clinical" for nursing students at Mount Aloysius College in Cresson, Pa. — about 170 miles away from Walter Reed.

Over the last four months, Walter Reed has participated with the college in the congressionally funded Nursing Telehealth Applications Initiative.

For more on this story and other Walter Reed Army Medical Center news, visit www.dcmilitary.com/army/stripe-on-the-Web.

Post adds 25 DA police to force

New civilian employees will eventually move into law enforcement mission

By Gary Skidmore

Command Info Officer

For Riley boosted its security force Nov. 29 with 25 Department of the Army policemen, who began manning the Henry Avenue access control point in the mornings.

"The long term plan is to integrate DA Police into the ACPs and eventually into law enforcement on the installation," said Lt. Col. Anthony D. Zabek Fort Riley's provost marshal and commander of the 924th Military Police Battalion.

Zabek said the installation's

current security contractor, AKAL, will remain on the ACPs, but will eventually share the load of security with the fort's other law enforcement and security forces.

"AKAL will remain on the ACPs as well as DA Police and, in some cases, MPs," Zabek said.

"Law enforcement and security is a joint force of Soldiers, contractors and DA civilians. The intent is to provide a professional, well-trained police and security force to the senior mission commander, in this case Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort

Riley, for the protection of the Fort Riley community."

Zabek said the DA Police will be patrolling the installation sometime in the future. The intent of adding DA Police to Fort Riley is to provide the installation with

See Police, Page 3

Toy Soldiers



Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Cady sings Christmas carols with students of Morris Hill Elementary School during the 70th Eng. Bn.'s ninth annual toy march to donate toys to Fort Riley's Operation Santa Claus. The students joined the marching Soldiers at King Field House for a toy march of their own.

Engineers, students help Santa Claus

By Cassidy Hill

Community Relations

Santa's elves received more than 1,000 toys from toy marches Dec. 10 and 13 that supported Operation Santa Claus.

Soldiers of the 70th Engineer Battalion and 937th Engineer Group donated the toys to support the annual toy drive that collects money and toys for needy children during the holidays.

On Dec. 10, the 70th Engineers marched 5 1/2 miles from Custer Hill to Main Post during their ninth annual toy march. Sounds of holiday chants filled the

air as about 400 Soldiers carried toys in their rucksacks and delivered them to the Operation Santa Claus Headquarters in Building 261.

The Soldiers, who were all wearing Santa hats, joined 80 students and 12 teachers from Morris Hill Elementary School during the march. The teachers and third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students walked with the Soldiers from King Field House to the Operation Santa Claus Headquarters.

The Soldiers and students donated more than 550 toys valued at almost \$2,500. Lt. Col. Anthony Wright, 70th Engineer

Battalion commander, said the unit has been participating in the march for nine years, despite the fact that the unit was deployed last year. He said the unit's family and rear detachment Soldiers maintained the tradition of the toy march while the unit was in Iraq.

"It's really a way to get into the Christmas spirit," Wright said. "It's a challenging time right now, but this is a lot of fun."

Anaya Royal, a fourth-grade Morris Hill Elementary School student, said Operation Santa Claus is a good program because it

See Toy march, Page 2

Units tapped for Iraq

Department of Defense

The Department of Defense has announced several large units scheduled for deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom rotations scheduled to begin in mid-2005.

The rotation is consistent with the current force structure in Iraq of 17 brigades and three division headquarters.

The troop list announced includes the 48th Infantry Brigade (Separate), Georgia Army National Guard, 24th Infantry Division (Mech); 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley; 172d Stryker Brigade Combat Team, Fort Wainwright, Alaska; 1st Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y.; the division headquarters and four brigades of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Ky.; and the division headquarters and four brigades of the 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

The first units deploying to Iraq are scheduled to arrive in mid-2005 and successive units will deploy at various times through mid-2006.

Official warns of sham by caller

By Cynthia Colson

Human Relations Officer

Numerous Army employees have reportedly received phone calls from a person claiming to be a contractor with the Army Benefits Center-Civilian.

The caller reportedly asks a series of personal questions for the purpose of preparing an annuity estimate.

The center does not employ contractors and is not contacting employees for this reason.

Employees are reminded that the Army Benefits Center-Civilian is the primary source within the Department of the Army for providing information and counseling on Federal Employees Health Benefits, Federal Employees Group Life Insurance, Thrift Savings Plan and retirement benefits for Army employees.

The ABC-C will occasionally need to contact an employee on a specific benefit issue without prior contact from the employee for the purpose of resolving health plan discrepancies, etc.

The ABC-C does not employ

See Sham, Page 4

Comrades honor fallen Soldier

By April Blackmon

Staff writer

A great leader, a selfless Soldier, a dedicated husband and father, a true friend. These phrases were echoed by Capt. Mark Stubenhofer's friends and comrades as the Fort Riley community gathered Dec. 13 to pay tribute to Fort Riley's 43rd fallen Soldier.

"He has completed his mission, and God has called him home," said Lt. Col. Dale Ringler.

Stubenhofer, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, was killed Dec. 7 in Baghdad, Iraq, by small arms fire during a dismounted patrol.

"Mark knew his Soldiers faced danger every time they went on

Capt. Mark Stubenhofer

30-year-old native of Springfield, Va.
Commissioned in the Army in May 1996.

Stationed at Fort Riley since March 2001.

Deployed to support Operation Iraqi Freedom in June 2004. It was his second tour to Iraq in two years.



patrol or convoy. Mark knew his duty was to share his experience with them to make them better and help ensure their safety. Mark knew it would be wrong for his Soldiers to face risks that he didn't have to, so he continued to lead as he knew how - from the

front," said Maj. Kevin West, commander of the 3rd Brigade Rear Detachment (Provisional).

"We were talking about if the invasion was going to be worth it. There were lots of opinions on how things would turn out. Mark summed it all up when he

described about when we would drive the highways in our convoys and some young Iraqi child in a mud farmhouse would spot the convoy from about a half a mile across the field and a canal.

"The child would then promptly begin racing for the highway as fast as he could. Even though he had no chance of making it to the road before we passed, just to have a chance to wave at us. Mark said if they would do that, it had to be worth it and we had to be doing a good thing," said Capt. Theodore Leonard.

"He was a true Soldier's leader who took a very no-nonsense approach to everything," said Sgt. 1st Class Danny Skeens. "He did everything to take care of the

See Memorial, Page 4





Post/Skidmore
Sgt. 1st Class Douglas Nelson, 172nd Chemical Company, 937th Engineer group carries a large box filled with presents he and the group donated to Operation Santa Claus.

Toy march continued from page 1

allows children to have presents they wouldn't otherwise get.

"I like to give to the children who don't have stuff," said Royal, who also participated in last year's toy march.

"This year I brought a My Little Pony and a teddy bear," she said.

Operation Santa Claus also received support from 937th Eng. Grp. Soldiers marched down Custer Hill carrying toys in their rucksacks Dec. 13.

About 330 Soldiers delivered the toys to Operation Santa Claus and then spent more than two hours wrapping presents.

The Soldiers donated 415 toys valued at more than \$1,850.

Spc. Wendell Clayton of the 172nd Chemical Company said he enjoyed participating in the toy

march and that he considered the march a success.

"It's all about the kids," Clayton said, "and I think a lot of children will be happy with the number of toys we donated today."

Col. Eddie Perkins, 937th Engineer Group commander, said the toy march was a great opportunity for his Soldiers. Perkins, who was dressed as Santa during the march, said the Soldiers enjoyed themselves.

"Christmas is a time for giving, and it's nice to know you are giving back to the community that supports you," Perkins said.

Operation Santa Claus has received more than \$41,541 in monetary and toy donations and has spent more than \$11,000 on toys in the surrounding communities for the program.



Three-year-old Brenden Edmonds rides comfortably in the rucksack his father, Pfc. Bradley Edmonds of the 70th Eng. Bn., carries during the ninth annual toy march the unit made Dec. 10 from Custer Hill to Operation Santa Claus headquarters on Main Post.
Post/Blackmon

Sgt. Dennis Estep of Co. C, 70th Eng. Bn., sings a Christmas carol while holding a stuffed Tweety bird he carried during the battalion's toy march Dec. 10.
Post/Blackmon



Post/Hill
Soldiers of the 937th Eng. Grp. wrap presents after their toy march Dec. 13.



Post/Blackmon
Benden Edmonds enjoys a cup of soup after the Dec. 10 Toy March by 70th Eng. Bn. Soldiers.

KANSAS PRESS
2 x 2"
Black Only
Schneider/12-14, 12-15 & 12-17

STATE FARM INSURANCE
2 x 2"
Black Only
2X2 CNR DNS 0354424 10/22 SR

KANSAS PRESS
2 x 2"
Black Only
KSH DLR./12-14,12-15 & 12-17

DICK EDWARDS HYUNDAI
6 x 10.5"
Other Color
RED 6X10.5 DICK ED HYUNDAI



Post news in brief

Museums close for holidays

The U. S. Cavalry Museum, Building 205 and the Fort Riley Regimental Museum, Building 207, will be closed Dec. 24 and 25 and Dec. 31 and Jan. 1. Both museums will resume normal hours of operation, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, beginning Jan. 2.

For information about the museum gift shop, call 239-2737.

Offices to close for holiday

Civilian Personnel Advisory Center will close at 11:30 a.m. Dec. 17 and remain closed for the remainder of that day to allow staff members to participate with staff of the Civilian Personnel Operations Center at their holiday celebration at Riley's Convention Center.

For CPAC emergencies, call Cindy Colson, human relations officer, via the Fort Riley Operations Center, 239-1099.

The Directorate of Resource Management Office will close from 10 a.m. Dec. 23 to 7:30 a.m. Jan. 4.

The Public Affairs Office will be closed from 1 to 5 p.m. Dec. 17.

For more information, call

Don Burnett at 239-0531, extension 958.

Public Works sets pick-up

The trash pick-up schedule will change Dec. 20-24 in observance of Christmas. The schedule is:

Dec. 20 – Colyer Manor, Main Post, Marshall Field, dumpster at Building 621. (No change from regular schedule.)

Dec. 21 – Ellis Heights, O'Donnell Heights, Montith Heights and Peterson Heights (north of Thomas Avenue), dumpsters at Building 5309. (No change from regular schedule.)

Dec. 22 – Warner Heights, Burnside Heights, dumpsters at Buildings 28, 45, 470, 540, 542 and 621.

Dec. 23 – Meade Heights, McClellan Heights, South Warner Heights, Peterson Heights (south of Thomas Avenue), dumpsters at Building 5309.

Dec. 24 – No pick up. The trash pick-up schedule also will change Dec. 27-31 in observance of New Year's. The schedule is:

Dec. 27 – Colyer Manor, Main Post, Marshall Field, dumpster at Building 621. (No change from regular schedule.) For more information, call 239-6274.

Corrections

Phone numbers to call to get post road information were incorrect in the Dec. 3 issue. The correct numbers are 239-2793, 239-2795 or 239-2798.

Figures representing the number of Enlisted Spouse Club members were incorrect in the Dec. 3 issue. Sherr Miller, president of the Enlisted Spouse Club, reports that the club has grown from 50 members in August to 85 members at present. The membership goal is to reach 100.

ROSS HAROLD
1 x 3"
Black Only
1x3/A lasting Gift

COTTONWOOD THEATERS
1 x 3"
Black Only
1x3 Cottonwood Dec TF 12/1

CRUMS
2 x 3"
Black Only
2x3 Crums 11/28 03545464

ACTION TIME
2 x 5"
Black Only
2x5 Action Time TF12/3 0354590

Soldier sentenced for Iraqi murder

Department of Defense

CAMP AL-TAHREER, Baghdad — A Task Force Baghdad Soldier assigned to a Fort Riley unit and convicted for murdering an Iraqi civilian was sentenced to three years in prison, reduction to the rank of private, forfeiture of all pay and a dishonorable discharge Dec. 10.

Staff Sgt. Johnny M. Horne pleaded guilty to one specification of murder in violation of Article

118 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice and one specification of conspiracy to commit murder in violation of Article 81.

A panel of seven senior service members passed the sentence after hearing testimony from the prosecution and the defense. They deliberated for about four hours before reaching their decision.

The convictions stemmed from Horne's murder of a severely wounded Iraqi civilian in Baghdad's Sadr City district Aug. 18.

Police

continued from page 1

the ability to deploy MP units to a theater of operations and have coverage on the installation without activating Army Reserve and Army National Guard units for purely law enforcement operations in CONUS.

"All of the military police Soldiers on Fort Riley are assigned to deployable ... units," Zabek said.

While the intent is to minimize the use of reserve component MP units mobilizing for purely law enforcement support, the Department of the Army has developed a program where reserve component combat arms units are being retrained as provisional military police units that can be activated and employed on installations for law enforcement missions," he said.

"They attend training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., where the U.S. Army Military Police School is located, and are available to support installations that are deploying military police to support the national military strategy," Zabek said. "However, the

objective is to employ DA Police."

Zabek said more than 100 DA Police will be phased into Fort Riley operations during a six-month period.

Additions will include deputy, investigators

The additions include a deputy provost marshal, plans and operations staff, law enforcement specialty positions including traffic and criminal investigators, a community services officer, force protection specialists, a game warden, dog handlers, supervisory police officers and line officers.

Zabek said that applicants for the DA Police position must have a law enforcement background, which includes serving in a police service in the armed forces or experience as a police officer in a civilian law enforcement agency.

"As the program gains momentum, we will look to hire non-law enforcement experienced people at the entry level," Zabek said.

COLLEGE HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH
2 x 2"
Black Only
2X2COLLHEIGHTS12/10-03546138JT

THE MARTIN AGENCY
4 x 10"
Black Only
Alitel/Post/Dec.12-3chru 12-23

Fort Riley Soldier dies in accident

Staff report

A Fort Riley Soldier visiting friends and family died Dec. 11 in Overland Park, Kan., as a result of injuries sustained in an all-terrain vehicle accident.

Spc. Donald G. Gowler, 22, of Merriam, Kan., was a cannoner assigned to 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, 1st

Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, at Fort Riley.

He enlisted in the Army in February 2001.

Gowler had been stationed at Fort Riley since August 2003.

He served a one-year rotation with the 1st Bde. in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"This is based on our ability to contract an academy to provide the training that we cannot do internally."

Zabek said candidates go through a series of gates similar to that of a civilian police agency, including a criminal background check, physical and mental evaluation, physical agility test and an interview.

If selected for the position, they will attend a three-week academy on Fort Riley to train them on Fort Riley rules and procedures and basic police training techniques.

Zabek said candidates who complete the academy then go through a field officer training program that includes a left seat-right seat ride with an experienced police officer or MP.

Force protection mission unchanged

Zabek said force protection requirements will not change with the addition of the DA Police.

"The Fort Riley community

must keep in mind that we are a nation and an Army at war. As such, military installations are a target and we must maintain vigilance. Procedures and random anti-terrorism measures at gates at Fort Riley are no different than anti-terrorism measures in place at all our military installations worldwide, he said.

"Our primary concern is the safety of the Soldiers, family members and civilian workforce at Fort Riley. The enemy is not someone easily identifiable, which is why we take the precautions and measures at the gates.

"We do understand that there are traffic slow-downs at the gates, and we are doing our best, within the standards that we must operate for the protection of everyone, to get people through in a timely manner. The best way the community can help us is to take a few extra minutes and use different gates, plan ahead and have the required documentation ready for the security personnel," Zabek said.

KANSAS PRESS
2 x 2"
Black Only
3S/12-14, 12-15 & 12-17



Maj. Gen. Michael Symanski, commander of the 89th Regional Support Command, talks with recipients of the Purple Heart after a ceremony at Fort Riley Dec. 7. (Seated from right) Specs. Shannon Rachwitz, Brandon Smith and Howard Schwausch received the medals. Participating in the ceremony is Col. Kimberly Weaver (back right), 648th Area Support Group Commander. *Post/Blackmon*



Soldiers earn 'Hearts'

Reservists wounded, injured while in Iraq

By April Blackmon
Staff writer

Three reserve component Soldiers received Purple Hearts Dec. 7 for injuries sustained while serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Specs. Shannon Rachwitz, Howard Schwausch and Brandon Smith were honored during a ceremony at the 648th Area Support Group headquarters on Custer Hill.

"The Purple Heart is not an award that you win. It's one that is presented by a grateful nation for

one's commitment and dedication to being a Soldier on the nation's behalf. I want to thank you for your service," said Maj. Gen. Michael Symanski, commander of the 89th Regional Support Command.

Rachwitz, of the 308th Quartermaster Company, was hit in the leg with shrapnel during a mortar attack June 30 at Log Base Seitz near the Baghdad International Airport.

Schwausch, of the 369th Transportation Company, was escorting a convoy from Camp Caldwell, Kirkush, to Camp Anaconda,

Balad, when it was hit with an improvised explosive device July 13. He fractured his right shoulder.

"We were about an hour outside the camp. We were just driving and there was a vehicle-borne IED on the side of the road. We got about 10 or 15 feet away from it and it just went off," Schwausch said.

Smith, of the 428th Trans. Co., was stationed at Camp Cooke, Taj. He lost hearing in his left ear after his vehicle was hit with an IED April 18 at an underpass in Baghdad.

Memorial

continued from page 1

boys."

"Stubie had the audacity to be a leader that made the improbable probable, that made the impossible a measured success," said Frank Hathaway, a close friend who served previously with Stubenhofner at Fort Riley. Stubenhofner was posthumously awarded the Meritorious Service

Medal, presented to his wife by Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commander, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley.

His other awards and decorations include two Bronze Star Medals, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, two Army Commendation Medals, two Army Achievement Medals, National

Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and Army Service Ribbon.

He also earned the Ranger Tab, Senior Parachutist Badge, Royal Thai Jump Wings and Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Sham

continued from page 1

contractor personnel to do that and will only make such calls during the normal business hours of 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Central Time.

Local advisory centers and operation centers may also need to contact employees to further coordinate the benefits specified.

For the Flexible Spending Account and Long Term Care

benefits, the Office of Personnel Management has designated Sykes Health Plan Services and Long Term Care Partners, respectively, to administer these programs.

Non-appropriated fund employees, as necessary, would be contacted by a representative from the NAF Human Resources

Office.

If an employee ever feels uncomfortable with someone making contact with them, he or she can always place a direct call to verify the source.

For instance, for the ABC-C, the employee can call the center's toll-free number and ask to speak with the counselor who is calling.

**Got a general concern that needs an answer?
Call the editor at 239-8854 and talk about it.**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
1 x 2.5"
Black Only
1X2.5 1ST PRESBY CHURCH
AD

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS-ABILENE
2 x 2.5"
Black Only
2X2.5 HOLIDAY INN 12/3

MILITARY OUTLET
3 x 3"
Black Only
3X3MILITOUT12/3DECTF03546150JT

FRONTIER SPIRITS
3 x 6"
Black Only
3x6 Frontier Ad 12/17

GEARY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
3 x 5.5"
Black Only
3X5.5 GCH KHOURY 03545419 SR

MARSHALL MOTORS
3 x 10"
Black Only
3x10 Marshall Motors 12/17



Commentary

Friday, December 17, 2004

Fort Riley Post

Page 5

Riley Roundtable

This week's question:

Besides the religious aspects, what's the most important thing Fort Riley families should remember this holiday season?



"Family and looking out for one another during the Holidays."

Chap. (Maj.) Richard Green
1st Brigade Chaplain
Home: Enterprise, Ala.



"The holiday gives us an opportunity to get outside ourselves, and there are so many that seem to be less fortunate than we are. We have to remember the Soldiers who aren't with their families due to deployment... that there are families throughout the year who have lost a loved one who won't be with them during the holidays."

Chap. (Capt) Jeffrey Lee
Home: Mertzson, Texas



"It's also a valuable time to reflect on the past and dream about the future."

Chap. (Maj.) Carl Rosenberg
Family Life Center Chaplain
Home: Holcombe, Wis.



"No matter what we're going through right now, remember that God is with us now and in the future. Hang in there, because things will work out."

Chap. (Maj.) Nathan Zimmerman
1st Battalion, 34th Armor, Chaplain
Home: Del City, Okla.

Next week's question:

What is your New Year's wish for yourself and for the Fort Riley community?

Opinions may be e-mailed to the editor at mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil or faxed to the editor at 239-2592. Opinions must reach the editor by close of business Tuesdays to appear in the following Friday's paper.

Letters to the editor:

The Post will print letters to the editor. They may be edited to fit available space, but the content's message will not be changed. Letters must include the writer's complete identification and a phone number the editor can use to verify information in the letter and obtain more information, if it is needed. Send letters to Editor, the Post, Public Affairs Office, Building 405, Fort Riley, KS 66442 or e-mail them to mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil

Pen Points

Holiday spirit evident throughout area

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

Once had an editor who tried to personify Ebenezer Scrooge. He would stomp around the newsroom during the holiday season muttering "Bah! Humbug!" while the rest of us decorated our desks with tiny trees shining with miniature ornaments or softly played Christmas music in our cubicles.

We all knew he wasn't Scrooge. In fact, he was very generous, but it was a holiday tradition at that newspaper, and we all enjoyed the tradition.

Americans look forward to holiday traditions. They help us realize how fortunate we are to live in a nation that allows such celebrations and how wonderful it is to be part of a society that tries to make each holiday a happy time for everyone, especially those less fortunate.

This year, I received an extra helping of holiday spirit at a time I didn't expect it.

The absence of a Junction City volunteer staff resulted in the disappearance of local Salvation Army bell ringers this season. The money donated to the Salvation Army during this time of year was aimed at helping that organization buy toys for children who would otherwise get no



Mike Heronemus

Christmas presents and to help put a meal on the table for families in need.

It appeared the Junction City community would have a number of families observing a less than merry Christmas. That changed. One community organization, the United Way of Junction City and Geary County, volunteered to gather toys and food for local families in need if they could get some help from other groups in the area.

Junction City South Kiwanis Club stepped up to organize bell ringers at a local grocery store. They didn't have trouble finding help. Members of the Noon Kiwanis Club, Ladies' Reading Club, Sertoma Club, Optimist Club, Pilot Club, Rotary Club, Juneteenth Committee, Shriners' Mini Wheels, Jim Clark Auto Center, Central National Bank and Valley View Professional Care Campus volunteered to ring the old-fashioned sleigh bells and man the donation bucket.

As of Dec. 11, after 11 days of

ringing the bells, shoppers had contributed more than \$2,000 toward a merrier Christmas for needy families in the city.

During my times jingling the sleigh bells, my Christmas spirit rose, too. I was a bit shocked the first time someone thanked me for "ringing the bells." Why would someone want to thank me for soliciting money to help someone else? I learned from a few people who stuffed dollar bills into my bucket and then paused to chat with me that they missed the traditional bell ringers outside stores.

Several shoppers walked past me with carts filled with groceries. I understood that. They, like me, have lots to do and just so much time to get it done, I thought. A few minutes later, more than \$11,000 to make this Christmas merry for lots of children and their parents.

I find it hard to comprehend Christmas without Fort Riley's Operation Santa Claus elves rushing through stores to buy Christmas gifts for girls and boys. Already they have spent more than \$11,000 to make this Christmas merry for lots of children and their parents.

They will be in Manhattan collecting more toys Dec. 18 for admission to that night's Kansas State University basketball game, thanks to the university's and its sports department's holiday spirit.

Christmas is a season of the heart, and I was reminded very personally this year just how loudly Fort Riley's and the surrounding communities' collective heart beats.

feeling a need to share what they have with others. Giving to charities has become a holiday tradition for many people, and this season they were missing that tradition until a bunch of civic organizations and charitable volunteers stepped up to keep this particular Christmas tradition alive in Junction City.

Fort Riley has done the same thing for years with its Operation Santa Claus and the 70th Engineer Battalion and 93rd Engineer Group toy marches down Custer Hill to the post's stand-in for the North Pole.

Christmas is a season of the heart, and I was reminded very personally this year just how loudly Fort Riley's and the surrounding communities' collective heart beats.

Emotional Health

Hints for brightening holiday's doldrums

By Karen Tolliver-Lee
Family Advocacy Program

The holiday season is often thought of as a time full of joy, cheer, parties and gatherings with friends and family. However, for many people, it is a time of loneliness, anxieties and sadness.

"Holiday blues" can cause stress, fatigue, financial hardships and unrealistic expectations. Some people experience headaches, over-eating and excessive drinking brought on by tension.

Recent studies indicated that some people suffer from Seasonal Affective Disorder. SAD results from fewer hours of sunlight during the winter months.

Post-holiday stress may occur among some people after Jan. 1. This can result from disappointments, excessive fatigue and stress.

Coping with stress, depression and deployment during the holiday season is possible. Consider the following ways to ease those anxieties that might come with the holidays and military deployment.



Carolyn Tolliver-Lee

ments:

- Make and use a budget for shopping money.
- Set reasonable goals; keep expectations manageable.
- Plan ahead. Get an earlier start shopping, sending gifts etc.

- Enjoy activities that are free, such as looking at holiday decorations in the community.
- Begin your own traditions; tune down the hype and over-commercialization.
- Help others. Do something for someone else. Volunteer at a local community center, nursing home, local school, shelter, etc.

- Surround yourself with people who are in your situation to help prevent loneliness.
- Spend a few hours of exposure to sunlight to relieve depressive symptoms.
- Overall, take good care of yourself.

For those who would like more information, call someone with the Family Advocacy Program at 239-9435 between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Managing Holiday Stress

Visit Army One Source Online to download these informative life articles: "Staying Connected While your Family is Away," "Shopping - Where to? How to?" "Inter Faith Families" and "Step Families." Call Army One Source at (800) 464-8107.

Grunt By Wayne Udden



FORT RILEY POST

This newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the Army. The contents of the Fort Riley Post are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or Fort Riley. The Fort Riley Post is an unofficial publication authorized by AR 360-1. Editorial content is prepared, edited and provided by the Public Affairs Office and Fort Riley. The Fort Riley Post is published by Montgomery Communications, a private firm in no way connected with the Army, under exclusive written contract with Fort Riley.

Publisher-Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy
Public Affairs Officer-Maj. Jeffrey Buczkowski
Command Information Officer-Gary Skidmore
Printer-John G. Montgomery
Fort Riley Editorial Staff
Editor-Mike Heronemus
Staff writer-April Blackmon
Advertising Representatives-Monica Lloyd, Stephanie Simmons, Annie Moulton

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of the Army or Montgomery Communications of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the printer shall refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected.

For business or advertising matters, call The Daily Union in Junction City at (785) 762-5000. For news offerings, call the Fort Riley Public Affairs Office at (785) 239-8854 or DSN 856-8854, or write to the Public Affairs Office Bldg. 405, Fort Riley, KS 66442-5016.

Circulation 8,800 copies each week

By mail \$20 per year
A licensed newspaper member of the Junction City and Manhattan chambers of commerce

Post Reader Feedback Form

How does the Post rate?

	Poor	Fair	Good
Interesting articles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Valuable information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mix of unit, community news	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Photo coverage of events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sports coverage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Entertainment coverage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Travel coverage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Availability of paper	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Easy to read, understand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Your opinion is important to the Post editor and staff. Please take a moment to tell us how well we are doing our job of keeping you informed about what is happening at Fort Riley. Fax the form to (785) 239-2592 or clip and mail this form to Editor, Public Affairs Office, Building 405, Fort Riley, KS 66442, or drop the form at building 405. You may also send your opinions to the staff by e-mail at mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil.

What are your concerns or suggestions for improvement?

Your name (optional) and phone number (if you would like to talk about your ideas): _____



Wounded Soldier stays with unit

By Aaron J. Orr
82nd Med. Co. (AA)

When an enemy explosive device landed and blew up in the open area between all the tents in the 82nd Medical Company's area, Staff Sgt. Dora White, a UH-60 Black Hawk mechanic, was pelted with shrapnel from her chest to her shins.

White had momentarily stepped from her tent to throw something in the trashcan immediately outside when the enemy explosive struck the ground, throwing shrapnel in all directions.

Immediately after being hit, "I grabbed my chest, for whatever reason, and looked down and saw blood all over my hands," White recalled. "I was afraid to look at my chest. I wanted a medic to look at it. I was afraid I had a big hole in there," she said.

She yelled for a medic and began running in what she thought was the direction she should go to find one. Everyone else was moving quickly toward the hangar.

"I was a little disoriented," she admitted. "I wasn't going toward



Staff Sgt.
Dora White

the hangar."

White said she didn't know how many wounds she had sustained, "but I could feel that I was hurt several places ... and the one in the chest, even though it ended up being the smallest one, it hurt the most. It scared me the most 'cause it seemed like it bled an awful lot pretty quick."

White was helped to the hangar, where company medics began to care for her. Her care continued at the 31st Combat Support Hospital at Logistics Support Area Anaconda until nearly midnight.

When told she would be able to return to the United States as a result of her injuries, White refused to entertain that idea. Adamant about staying.

White convinced the officer she spoke with to allow her to remain in-theater and to return to her tent that night.

"I didn't want to stay there by myself," she said. "I wanted to be with 3rd Squad. They're a great bunch of guys."

The reception White described about her return to the unit explains why she felt so strongly about getting back.

"They just made me feel so much better when I got back there. They came and hugged me and supported me and that's exactly why I came back."

"They continued to help me for weeks afterward, and they helped me ... get through what I was going through," she said.

She continued: "It seemed so important to come back here and let them know that I was OK, that just because it hit doesn't mean we all die or we all leave. It was kind of like (making) a statement ... and prove to them that we could make it."

Sleep did not come easily to White that night despite the late hour. Her laptop computer had just arrived in the mail that day and she found some pictures that her brother had put on it. She played the pictures in a slide show over and over.

"It was a comfort, to be there with the guys from 3rd Squad

who had been good to me and to see the pictures from home," White said.

The purplish-red scars that color various parts of her body have gotten smaller as they heal but will remain, possibly forever, she said, reminding her of the sacrifices she has made for freedom and her country during 19 years in the Army.

White learned she would receive the Purple Heart a day before the ceremony was scheduled. That night, she relived painful memories of that evening in late May.

The night before the ceremony "was pretty rough because I remembered everything over and over and over again, which I've been trying to forget," she said.

White remained steadfast in her commitment to the Army mission and her fellow Soldiers throughout her ordeal partly, she said, because of the support she has received from her comrades and partly out of her sheer power of will.

She continues her job as the noncommissioned-officer-in-charge of the unit tool room.



Post Copy Photo

Spiral Staircase

Christie M. McLaughlin won first place in the Division 2/Black and White/Place category of the Fort Riley Photo Contest in October.

KANSAS PRESS
2 x 2"
Black Only
Vixen/Goldberg/12-14, 12-15 & 12-17

KANSAS PRESS
2 x 2"
Black Only
Zypressa/12-14, 12-15 & 12-17

KANSAS PRESS
2 x 2"
Black Only
Wylie/12-14, 12-15 & 12-17

HOUSE ADS
6 x 12.5"
Black Only
AUSA--IF POSSIBLE



DoD helps wounded

Initiative aimed at giving injured troops assistance in securing new employment

By Rudi Williams
AFPS

BETHESDA, Md. — Department of Defense has startup funding for a new initiative for servicemembers injured in the Global War on Terror, a senior official said Dec. 7.

"We're looking at possibilities for internships and other types of trial employment," John M. Molino told attendees at the 17th DoD Disability Forum.

"We're also looking at possibilities for mentoring.

"We intend for every injured or disabled veteran to have as many opportunities as he or she needs to achieve his or her maximum potential on active duty or in our civilian work force," said the acting deputy undersecretary for equal opportunity.

"We are here for the people who fight to protect us," he said.

In addition, the department is continuing and expanding its other efforts on behalf of people with disabilities, Molino noted.

He told the group that DoD would continue using initiatives that have worked well in the past, such as the Workforce Recruitment Program for College Stu-

dents with Disabilities, which is co-sponsored with the Labor Department.

He pointed out that each year the Office of the Secretary of Defense funds about 200 summer jobs through the college recruitment program.

"In the past 10 years, we've been able to document almost 2,000 hires (1,833) at DoD activities around the world," Molino noted.

"In fiscal 2004, we hired 248 persons. In mid-March 2005, we'll release a CD-ROM with information concerning 2,000 students and recent graduates with disabilities who are looking for summer or permanent positions," he said.

Molino advised conferees to get in touch with their component's disability program manager or DoD's administrative coordinator for the workforce recruitment program to find out how to benefit from the program.

Molino also encouraged conferees to participate in the department's "e-mentoring" program for disabled students.

"The mentors are volunteers from our civilian workforce and the military services," he pointed out.

"This year, 50 students signed up. The matches have now been made, but we continue to need volunteers. Student goals and interests are phenomenally varied, so we need mentors in a very broad range of occupations," he said.

The DoD Computer/Electronic Accommodations Program, or CAP, is another program Molino highlighted. It provides technology to make facilities, programs and activities usable for disabled workers at no cost to the requesting organization.

"This program now serves active duty members of the military services and civilian employees," Molino said. "It provides real solutions for real people by eliminating barriers in the electronic environment.

"Legislation a few years ago authorized us to serve the entire federal community," he said. "Last year CAP supplied more than 5,500 accommodations to DoD organizations and partner agencies outside DoD."

DoD welcomes Americans with disabilities in its civilian workforce and increasingly in the military services, Molino said, and in its facilities, programs and activities worldwide, he added.



Post Copy Photo

Are My Toes Still There?

Pfc. Samuel A. Sistare won first place for this entry in the October photo contest at Fort Riley. His color print competed against four other entries in the Division 1 People category.

FRONTIER SPIRITS

3 x 3"

Black Only

3x3 Frontier 12/17 Ores Ad

BOX N SHIP
3 x 3"
Black Only
3x3 box n ship DEC TF

US ARMY REENLISTMENT-ARMED FOR
3 x 10.5"
Black Only
#491061/Warrent Of film

VALASSIS

3 x 12"

Black Only

Cellular One/#4411/12-17-04



U.S. ARMY RESERVES- ARMED FORC
6 x 21.25"
Black Only
#491807/12-17-04





Armor, tactics defeat IEDs

By Jim Garamone
AFPS

WASHINGTON – American industry is cranking out armored Humvees as fast as it can, but other initiatives already have saved lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, Defense Department officials report.

In August 2003, industry produced only 15 armored Humvees per month, said Pentagon spokesman Larry Di Rita at a Pentagon news conference. "Commanders there at that point started to face this growing improvised explosive device challenge and said that they would like to have higher numbers of armored Humvees than they had originally projected," he said.

American industry responded that about 450 armored Humvees are being made each month. There are 19,000 Humvees in the U.S. Central Command area of operations. This area extends from Kazakhstan to Kenya. Of these, officials said, 15,000 are armored vehicles or have been fitted with armor.

Army seeks more up-armored Humvees

WASHINGTON (ANS) – An additional 100 up-armored Humvees per month could soon be heading to Iraq, according to Army officials.

Secretary of the Army Francis J. Harvey is looking to modify the Army's contract with Armor Holdings, Inc. of Jacksonville, Fla., which currently produces 450 per month of the specialty vehicles, known as UAHs.

An up-armored Humvee has steel-plate doors, ballistic-resistant windows and steel plating underneath the vehicle that offers better protection against bullets, rocket-propelled grenades and improvised explosive devices.

The UAH weighs about 3,000 pounds more than the regular version.

The Army, which provides the UAHs to all U.S. forces in Iraq, aims to have 8,105 of the vehicles in its inventory by March 2005, officials said.

In addition, the Army Research Lab developed armor kits that can be fit on regular Humvees. The Army's Tank-automotive and Armaments Command is making these kits.

The armor is needed because the IED is a weapon of choice of the enemy. They plant these devices on the sides of roads and as targets go by, they use remote devices to explode the charges.

IEDs can be anything from hand grenades rigged to garage-door openers to artillery shells wired to cell phones. One blast was reported to be so powerful it overturned an Abrams main battle tank.

The armor helps, but the Army's IED Task Force also has helped. "While armor provides protection, it is not the be-all and end-all for security," said Army Maj. Paul Swiergosz, a DoD

spokesman. "The Army's IED Task Force and the Center for Army Lessons Learned have provided as much, if not more, protection for our forces by sharing tactics, techniques and procedures to help counter IED attacks."

Officials would not be specific about the contributions of the organizations – they don't want to provide information to the enemy. But another Pentagon official said, "We have saved more lives with tactics, techniques and procedures than with armor."

The Army is the lead service for combating IEDs, but all services contribute to the effort and all services benefit from the research, officials said.

The armor issue is a high priority for the military. The Army is speeding up production of armor add-on kits for Humvees and for all wheeled vehicles that will be deployed to the CENTCOM area. To date, the Army has added armor to 507 heavy tactical trucks, to 492 medium tactical vehicles, to two heavy equipment trailers, to eight M-915 trucks and to 187 palletized load system vehicles.

STANDARD PLUMBING
2 x 6"
Black Only
2X6 Standard Plumb 12/15

ORR'S FURNITURE CITY
6 x 15"

RED 6X15 ORR'S FURN





Post news in brief

Hospital offers more flu vaccine

Irwin Army Community Hospital recently received an additional, limited amount of flu vaccine that will be given to patients on an appointment basis.

The hospital will offer the added flu vaccinations to medically high-risk individuals only in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance and Department of Defense directive.

Appointment times and dates are 8 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 4 p.m. Nov. 29-30 and Dec. 6-7 at Primary Care Clinic No. 3. Call 239-DOCS (3627) for an appointment.

Safety staff sets bike rider class

A dirt bike rider course is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. Dec. 18 at the McGee Farm in Wakefield.

The hands-on, half-day dirt bike rider course is taught by a licensed ASI instructor.

The courses offer students an opportunity to increase their safety knowledge and to practice basic riding skills in a controlled environment under the direct supervision of a licensed instructor.

Individuals 6 years of age and older may take the class. Riders younger than 16 are restricted to dirt bikes of the appropriate size recommended for the rider's age.

There are special teaching

provisions for students under 16 years old, and parents are encouraged to attend.

Students younger than 12 participate in separate classes. A parent must be present during the course.

Students under the age of 18 must have a parent or guardian sign the release and consent form.

For more information, call Vanita Fiedler at 239-2334.

College opens master's course

Central Michigan University is accepting enrollment for a course in "Environments in Administration" through Dec. 20.

The course is part of the master's degree program offered at Fort Riley. Classes will meet Jan. 7, 8, 21 and 22 and Feb. 4 and 5.

To register online, go to ddl-campus.cmich.edu. For more information, call 784-4402.

Deployment ceremony set

The Fort Riley community will formally bid farewell to Soldiers of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, and 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, 1st Infantry Division, during a ceremony at 2 p.m. Jan. 5 in Bramlage Coliseum, 1800 College Avenue, Kansas State University, Manhattan.

Policy changes help Soldiers stay in Army

By Rudi Williams

AFPS

BETHESDA, Md. — Fundamental changes have taken place in the Defense Department's disability policy, a top Pentagon official told attendees at the 17th DoD Disability Forum Dec. 7.

John M. Molino, acting deputy undersecretary of defense for equal opportunity, cited a December 2003 visit by President Bush to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, when the president noted advancements in medical treatment and recovery

allow many more wounded servicemembers to resume their careers.

"Today, if wounded servicemembers want to remain in uniform and can do the job, the military tries to help them stay," Molino recalled the president telling the patients.

"This statement, this attitude," Molino continued, "has implications for everything from accessibility policy on military installations to the long-standing expectation that every active duty servicemember must be able to deploy to combat anywhere in the world. We're re-examining our

basic assumptions, and basic changes are on the way."

The department is committed to doing all it can to bring those changes about, Molino told the group. "We're moving aggressively to help servicemembers remain on active duty if they wish to do so," he said.

Noting Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld's wholehearted support for keeping capable servicemembers in the DoD fold, Molino said defense personnel officials also are looking for ways to improve opportunities for veterans with disabilities in DoD's civilian work force.

Task force uses IED coins in effort to reduce attacks

By Stephanie Carl

Army News Service

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — To combat the problem of improvised explosive devices, Combined Joint Task Force-76 has launched a program designed to reward Soldiers and Afghans for their efforts in eliminating the threat of IEDs.

"People like to receive recognition for the things they do," said Brig. Gen. Bernie Champoux, CJTF-76 deputy commanding general for operations. "We're

making a concerted effort to do what we can to protect our troops, and this is just another facet of that."

The other facet is the new IED commander's coin, which is awarded to any individual who assists in thwarting an IED attack or in some way helps in the campaign to prevent IED attacks.

Featuring an eagle clutching an IED in its talons, the coin represents the United States and the removal of IEDs, said 2nd Lt. Scott Chalmers, Company A, 125th Military Intelligence Battalion, executive officer, and the

artist behind the design.

The coin is part of the Coalition's small rewards program used to reward Afghans for their efforts in preventing IED attacks. In the past, the small rewards program has compensated civilians monetarily for the information they provide.

The local population is one of the biggest sources of information about IEDs, said Lt. Col. Scott Berrier, CJTF-76 director of intelligence. "It's important for units to establish a good relationship with the people in the villages," he said.

KANSAS PRESS
1 x 8"
Black Only
W 11/11/12-14, 12-15 & 12-17

SCREEN MACHINE
2 x 2"
Black Only
2X2SCREENM12/3DECTF03546155JT

KANSAS PRESS
2 x 2"
Black Only
Vince/Vorlin/12-14,12-15&12-17

KANSAS PRESS
2 x 2"
Black Only
CPT/12-14, 12-15 & 12-17

HOME DEPOT-ARM FORCES COMM.
6 x 10.5"

FULL COLOR/#445421 thru 445429





Fort Riley Community Life

Friday, December 17, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

Page 11

Community news briefly

Chapel needs musicians

The contemporary Protestant worship service is in need of a pianist, bass player and acoustic guitar player for its Sunday morning services in Kapaun Chapel on Custer Hill. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings.

Anyone interested should call Juanita Boudreaux at 784-2918.

Community invited to meal

A community family Christmas dinner has been planned for families, friends and loved ones in Junction City and at Fort Riley. Several local organizations are sponsoring the free event, which is scheduled from 2 to 4 p.m. Dec. 19 at the Twelfth Street Community Center in Junction City.

For more information, call Preola Briggs at 223-0500.

Rally Point sets activities

Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 - 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., New Year's Eve Bash. Sip a toast to Auld Lang Syne with friends at Rally Point. Celebrate in style with champagne and party favors for only \$5 per person.

Advanced table reservations are available for an additional \$10. You can also buy your tickets early at Rally Point. For more information or to reserve a table, call Rally Point at 784-5434.

Association seeks dancers

The U.S. Amateur Ballroom Dancers Association wants to establish a chapter for social or recreational dancers in Manhattan, Kan. If enough interest is expressed, a local steering committee would be formed to guide the project and enroll members.

For more information about USABDA and how a person can become a member, visit www.usabda.org on the Web. Anyone interested in helping start a dance chapter in Manhattan should call (800) 447-9047 or send e-mail to central-office@usabda.org.

Youth group plans activity

The Fort Riley Spiritual Rangers youth group will host a pot-luck meal, informational meeting and Spiritual Ranger Review Board at 1 p.m. Dec. 19 in the basement of St. Mary's Chapel on Main Post.

Storytime plans 'Polar Express'

On Dec. 18, the classic Christmas story "The Polar Express," will be read during Saturday Storytime at the Post Library. Listeners can then decorate a gift bag to take home.

The Post Library, Building 5306 on Hood Drive, will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

For more information, call Victoria Martin at 239-9582.

Stay In Step with Fort Riley

See what's happening on Fort Riley cable Channel 2 every day at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.

198 earn diplomas 110 attend post graduation ceremony

By April Blackmon
Staff writer

Some 110 graduates received diplomas during Fort Riley's fall graduation ceremony Dec. 9 in King Field House. In all, 198 students earned diplomas through the post's higher education programs.

Eight students received master's degrees, 41 earned bachelor's degrees and 149 students received associate's degrees in various fields from six colleges and universities.

"Earning your degree is no small achievement... You have proven that you can accomplish

your dreams; that when you have a dream and you commit yourselves, there is nothing that you cannot achieve," said Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley.

See Grads, Page 12

Retired Sgt. Maj. Jim Sands beams with pride after receiving his diploma from Upper Iowa University Dec. 9. Post/Blackmon



Happy holiday



Julie McElroy (with microphone) leads the singing of Christmas carols with help from some young volunteers. About 250 parents and children who are part of the Fort Riley Exceptional Family Member and New Parent Support programs attended a special Christmas Party Dec. 7 at Riley's Convention Center.

Families share food, song, presents

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

Holiday spirits, laughter, singing and a lot of happy conversation filled Riley's Convention Center Dec. 7. Parents and children who are part of the Exceptional Family Member and New Parent Support programs at Fort Riley had gathered for a holiday party.

About 100 parents and 150 children attended the special party, according to a quick count by Betsy Young, who welcomed people at the ballroom door.

Laura McCauley, manager of the Fort Riley Exceptional Family Member Program, organized the party, complete with food for everyone and a present for each child attending.

She was assisted by Young; Becky Willis; Santos Bonilla; Toiane Taylor and Kim Kluesner, who are staff members of the New Parent Support Program.

and Julie McElroy, Julie's husband and their children.

Operation Santa Claus at Fort Riley supplied the toys for all the children, who also left the party with a Christmas sock full of goodies, a Christmas ornament and some craft projects to do at home, including patterns for cutting out paper snowflakes.

Andrew Lee, 7, sat quietly at a table with his family while children were noisily accepting gifts from Bonilla, who served as a stand-in Santa Claus. Lee already had his present but hadn't opened it.

"I don't have any idea what's in it," he said, adding that he hadn't tried to rattle it or feel it to try to guess what was inside. Lee said he hoped Santa would bring him a CD game this Christmas.

As for the Christmas party, Lee said he was enjoying pretty much the whole evening, but

See Party, Page 12



Five-month-old Paxton LaBay (right) tries to play a tune on her present while held by her mother, Dawn LaBay. At the same table, Paul Alfaro IV and his mother, Erica Alfaro, look at the present he received during the Christmas Party at Riley's Convention Center Dec. 7.

Soldiers can spend Pogs at home AAFES facilities honor paper stand-in for U.S. coins

By Amanda Glenn
AAFES Public Affairs

Pogs, the small, round, coated-paper gift certificates issued by Army and Air Force Exchange Service facilities in Iraq, spend like real money, even at AAFES stores elsewhere in the world.

Pogs have been given to Soldiers serving in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom in lieu of metal currency since 2001.

Normally, AAFES uses metal currency - quarters, nickels and dimes - provided by finance and accounting offices, explained

Maj. David Accetta, AAFES Europe public affairs officer.

During wartime operations, the priority for shipping is mission-essential items, but this doesn't extend to coins.

Paper money weighs less than metal coins and printing currency is against the law, so, at the

request of the Department of Defense, AAFES thought outside the box and developed the Pogs to satisfy the requirement for change, Accetta explained.

Now, a couple years and designs later, more than a million dollars worth of Pogs have been

See Pogs, Page 12

AAFES credit rates go up

By Diane Weed
AAFES Public Affairs

The Exchange Credit Program is raising the interest rate for the Military STAR card to 10 percent. The interest rate will increase by a quarter percentage point to become 10 percent. The increase is based on the Nov. 10 announcement by the Federal Reserve raising the prime rate to five percent.

Military STAR card terms and conditions state that the interest charged will be based upon the current prime rate plus five percent.

The interest rate will become effective after the January billing statement. Any new purchases after the January billing statement will constitute acceptance of the revised interest rate.

Customers will receive notification of the rate change in their December billing statement.

The rate increase doesn't apply to the zero-interest Military Clothing Plans, special promotions already in existence or to deployed customers whose balances are treated under special conditions or have balances at reduced rates.

AAFES drops phone rates

AAFES

DALLAS - Deployed military personnel, much like their civilian counterparts in the states, will be heating up the phone lines through the first of the year to connect with family and friends during the holidays. Because of the anticipated increase in telephone usage, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service has worked with AT&T to secure a reduced rate for troops in Afghanistan and Iraq.

As a result of these negotiations, troops in Afghanistan and Iraq who use AAFES' 550-Unit Military Exchange Global Prepaid Phone card now to Jan. 5 will enjoy rates as low as 19 cents per minute.

"It is only through persistence and tough negotiation that AAFES can provide a better rate from Iraq and Afghanistan for the holidays," said AAFES' Commander Maj. Gen. Kathryn Frost. "Phone calls home provide an instant morale boost to troops. AAFES must negotiate the

See Cards, Page 13





Community news briefly

Commissary sets hours

Dec. 20 – Open Monday normal hours
Dec. 24 – Open 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Dec. 25 – Closed for the holiday
Dec. 26 – Open normal hours
Jan. 1 – Closed for the holiday

Ryun nominates two candidates

Kansas Sen. Jim Ryun has nominated two Fort Riley high school seniors to compete for appointments to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.

Shannon Cobb and Patrick Higginbottom were among 23 students Ryun nominated to compete for appointments to West Point, the U.S. Air Force Academy, the U.S. Naval Academy and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

Team building classes offered

Two Army Family Team Building classes will be offered at the Armed Services YMCA, 111 E. 16th St. in Junction City, Dec. 17. Classes are titled "Intermediate Problem Solving," and "Time Management."

Classes are taught from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and free childcare is available for those who pre-register.

For more information or to register for a class, call 239-1347 or 239-9435.

Youth Services sets activities

Dec. 18 – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., free childcare for deployed Soldier's kids
For more information, call 239-9173

BOSS sets activities

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers will have its Christ-

mas party beginning at 5 p.m. Dec. 23 at Rally Point
For more information, call 239-8147.

Teen Center slates activities

Dec. 17 – 7 to 10 p.m., pool party at Long Fitness Center pool (previously scheduled at Eyster Pool)
Dec. 18 – 6 to 9 p.m., family potluck dinner
For more information, call the Teen Center at 239-9222.

Auto center offers classes

The Auto Skills Center offers free basic and advanced automotive repair classes. The basic class is offered from 6 to 7 p.m. the first and third Thursday of each month. The advanced class is offered from 6 to 7 p.m. every second and fourth Thursday.

Holiday hours at the Auto Skills Center will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 22-24, closed Dec. 25, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 26, closed Dec. 27-28, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 29-31, closed Jan. 1, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 2.
For more information, call 239-9764.

Society seeks tour docents

The Historical and Archaeological Society of Fort Riley needs docents who can volunteer two hours every few months to share the post's history with others.

HASFR docents give group tours of the Custer House and tours of Fort Riley.

For further information, call Alicia Broadwater at 717-3266.

Crafts center slates classes

Dec. 18 – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 3-D buildings in glass
No Scrap booking get together on Dec. 26
For more information, call the Arts and Crafts Center at 239-9205.

Grads

continued from page 11

Retired Sgt. 1st Class Locadio Perez said one of the great things about receiving his degree was that he could "show my son that anyone can do it," he said.

Perez received his bachelor's degree in social science from Upper Iowa University. Perez started going back to school last year, and said he wants to pursue a master's degree in education.

"I want to teach secondary level education," he said. "I want to give back to the community."

Hardy challenged the graduates "to capitalize on your education, capitalize on your lives and be proactive in sharing with others what you have learned. You are all now leaders, continually motivating others ... shaping the future and carrying on the traditions of excellence which have made this nation what it is today."

KSU grads

Seven Fort Riley people were among the approximately 1,400 Kansas State University students eligible to graduate Dec. 10 and 11.

Post candidates were: Hollie Michelle Davis, B.S. in agriculture; Jessica Rae Gamez, B.S. in business admin; Stephanie Rachelle Hicks, bachelor of science; Lisa Lyn Jones, B.S. in dietetics; Natalie Nicole Marquez, bachelor of science; Michael George McClure, bachelor of science; and Makesia Selena Sumpter, B.S. in elementary education

PRAIRIE HAWK CYCLE & LEATHER,
1 x 1.5"
Black Only
1X1.5 DEC '04 TF

Party

continued from page 11

to that point, the singing had been the best.

"I especially like 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas,'" he said.

The McElroy family led the group singing, assisted by several young, eager volunteers who played a variety of simple musical instruments while singing a few well-known Christmas carols.

Later, while the presents were being handed out, Ashlynn McElroy, 9, agreed with Lee that the singing had been the best part. She particularly liked singing "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer," but everyone at her table loudly sang their part of the "Twelve Days of Christmas."

"We were the eighth day," McElroy said.

McElroy hopes Santa will bring her a guitar and skates for Christmas.



Post/Heronemus
Charity Pennington, 9, and her mother, Hope Pennington, blend their voices during the group singing at the Exceptional Family Member and New Parent Support program's Christmas party Dec. 7 at Riley's Convention Center.

**What's your organization doing?
Call the editor at 239-8854 to talk about coverage by the Post staff.**

DAILY UNION
3 x 5"
Black Only
DU GIFT SUBSCRIPTION AD

USA DISCOUNTERS
3 x 10.5"
BLJR/3x10.5/December 2004

SIRLOIN STOCKADE
3 x 4"
Black Only
3X4 GIFT CERT 12/3 03545535 SR

THE AMERICAN LEGION
3 x 5"
Black Only
3X5 Am Leg 12/17





KSU vet: Think carefully about new puppy

By Amber Haag

Kansas State University

MANHATTAN – If you are considering getting a puppy, Dr. Susan Nelson, assistant professor of veterinary medicine at Kansas State University, suggests a few things to keep in mind.

Before buying a new puppy, consider:

- Do you want a lap dog or jogging partner?
- Do you want a small or large dog?
- Do you want a male or female dog?
- Do you want a dog with long or short hair?
- What grooming needs will the

dog require?

- Do you want a purebred or mixed breed?
- What will be the dog's exercise needs?

If you want a mixed breed dog, area shelters and www.petfinder.com are resources to find one.

If you want a purebred dog, Nelson said the next step is to research the breed. Know the qualities of the breed before you buy it, so you are not surprised or disappointed by behaviors expected from that breed.

A prospective owner should also research the cost of owning a dog. Costs for foods and medications are higher for large breeds.

Nelson said it's important to

research breeders and to ask around to find a reputable breeder. Consider breeders who will guarantee the health and quality of their dogs.

After choosing a breed and buying the puppy, Nelson said the new owner should take the puppy in for a veterinarian check-up right away to make sure the puppy is healthy and physically sound.

At this time, the owner should make appropriate appointments for distemper, adenovirus, parainfluenza and parvovirus vaccines, as well as deworming and fecal examinations for intestinal parasites.

Nelson said a puppy's shots should be started at 6 to 8 weeks

of age, with booster shots every two to four weeks until the puppy is around 16 weeks old. Nelson said the puppy should receive its rabies shot between 12 and 16 weeks of age.

Nelson said additional vaccines may be needed, depending on breed and health status and that all new owners should check with their veterinarians.

Nelson recommends obedience training for puppies. The earlier that is done, the better. She said it's important to be willing to train your dog, because good behavior means a better time for everyone.

Before choosing an obedience training class, Nelson stressed researching the classes and meth-

ods used by the instructors. Ask to visit a class in progress, but do not take your puppy when you go to observe.

Some basic needs of a new puppy include shelter and food. Nelson said a dog crate or carrier is usually the best and safest place for a puppy to sleep. She said it provides a safe haven, is the best way for house training and keeps the puppy from destructive chewing while you are gone.

Nelson said puppies should be fed in 10- to 15-minute timed feedings two to three times a day for young puppies and one to two times daily for older puppies. The number of feedings should be increased if the puppy is a small

or toy breed.

She said timed feedings are important in helping the owner more closely monitor how much the puppy is eating and regulate bowels for easier house training.

Nelson said to use the feeding guide on the food bag as just a general guide of how much to feed. The puppy will require more or less depending on exercise levels, weight and age.

While Nelson said these are the basics of adding a puppy to your family, she said new owners also need to take the dog to the vet at least once yearly and account for other needs, such as heartworm prevention, flea and tick control and exercise.



Post Copy Photo

Mr. Personality

Sara E. Starr took this black and white photo of a horse making a face and entered it in the post photo contest in October. She won first place in the Division 2/Black and White/Thing category against six other entries.

Cards continued from page 11

absolute lowest possible telecommunication rates between the front lines and the home front."

The decreased rate is also good news for anyone who would like to send a phone card to deployed troops.

The reduced rate means that a \$39 phone card purchased through the "Help Our Troops Call Home" program will provide 46 additional minutes of talk time for troops in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"The reduced rate will provide over three hours of calls between Iraq or Afghanistan and the Continental United States," Frost said.

To date, AAFES' "Help Our Troops Call Home" program has generated \$576,082 to help Marines, Sailors, Airmen and Soldiers stay in touch with loved ones back home. These funds have been used to purchase 13,998 550-Unit Military Exchange Global Prepaid Phone

cards and 1,508 Ship to Shore cards. The "Help Our Troops Call Home" initiative offers phone cards that do not expire and do not add any additional charges or connection fees.

The 550-Unit Military Exchange Global Prepaid Phone Cards and Ship to Shore cards can be sent to individual servicemembers or "any servicemember" through the American Red Cross, USO, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, Air Force Aid Society or the Fisher House Foundation. AAFES' charitable partners have distributed 3,420 phone cards since the "Help Our Troops Call Home" program began in April 2004.

Individuals, organizations and businesses can log on to www.aafes.com and click the "Help Our Troops Call Home" link or call (800) 527-2345 for more information.

CANDLEWOOD HEALTH MART PHARMAC

2 x 2"
Black Only
2X2-12/3CANDLEWOOD03546133JT

KANSAS PRESS

2 x 2"
Black Only
K991 Cnt. /12-14, 12-15 & 12-17

New add -- ask Stephanie

NEIGHBORHOOD CHILD CARE CENTER

2 x 4"
Black Only
2X4 OPENING 12/16

DAILY UNION

2 x 8"
Black Only
Convention Center/New Year's

EASTSIDE MARKET-MANHATTAN

2 x 8"
Black Only
2X8 Eastside Gift Box 12/10

MANHATTAN REGIONAL AIR-
PORT
1 x 2"
Black Only
COMM AIR SERVICE GRANT

BODY FIRST
1 x 2"
Black Only
1X2 Body First 12/12

KANSAS PRESS
2 x 2"
Black Only
UPS Store/12-14,12-15 & 12-17

SET
2 x 5.5"
Black Only
2X5.5CARMIKE12/3DBCTF03546162JT





Amy Grant and Vince Gill sing, 'I'll be home for Christmas,' as a tribute for all the Soldiers overseas who won't be home to celebrate the holidays with families and loved ones.
Post/Skidmore



Post/Skidmore
Spec. Wayne Burnsworth, Battery B, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery (left) and Spec. Cameron Baker, Battery D, 1st Bn., 5th FA, had the chance to meet and talk with Vince Gill and Amy Grant after their concert Dec. 9 in Topeka.

GALAXY PRESS - AFC
1 x 8"
Black Only
#525202/To The Stars/12-17-04

Country music duo salutes troops

By Gerry J. Gilmore
AFPS

WASHINGTON — Vince Gill and Amy Grant are huge country music stars who've made it a habit of saluting U.S. military members for their service. They saluted them again Dec. 9 during a concert at the Topeka Expo Center that some Fort Riley Soldiers attended.

"The holiday season is all about people celebrating family and loved ones and to be re-inspired," Grant observed during a recent interview with her husband, Gill, in Nashville. American troops and their families, she said,

"need to know that we support them and that they have our love and our prayers."

Last year, the pair made it a point to recognize servicemembers during their "Simply Christmas with Amy Grant and Vince Gill" stateside holiday tour, donating tickets so servicemembers and their families could see the show.

During Grant's rendition of the classic holiday song "I'll Be Home for Christmas" during last year's tour, several on-stage screens flashed photos of deployed servicemembers sending holiday wishes to loved ones at home.

Grant recalled that her nephew,

a midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy, came to last year's show with his roommate. After she introduced them, the audience rose immediately to its feet and began cheering, she said.

"I just wish we could let every military person feel that kind of emotion and that sort of support," Grant noted.

Gill acknowledged "the sacrifice that our (military) men and women have made for our country," noting such selfless service enables Americans at home to live free lives.

Therefore, the country music stars "want to pitch in, in any way that we can," Gill said, to help support servicemembers and their

families.

This year's 14-city, "Simply Christmas" holiday tour runs through Dec. 19 and includes stops in Kansas, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, South Carolina and Florida. It features "all-new pictures" of deployed servicemembers and their families, Grant reported.

Some of those photos, she said, depict deployed servicemembers' children saying, "I miss you, Mom and Dad," while others show military personnel sending their regards and best wishes to loved ones at home.

"It's just so beautiful," Grant said, noting that emotional support is important for anyone.

"Whatever you're doing in life," she emphasized, "you need to feel supported and loved. That's what we're trying to do for our troops."

The country stars have recorded a promotional announcement for the Pentagon's "America Supports You" program, encouraging people to log onto the program's Web site.

The DoD initiative recognizes efforts Americans are taking to remember servicemembers serving overseas in harm's way.

America is blessed, Gill said, because U.S. troops are "serving us so proudly" overseas in the war against global terrorism.

"God bless you, and come home soon," he said.

DAILY UNION
6 x 13"
Black Only
POST SERVICE DIRECTORY





Fort Riley Sports & Recreation

Friday, December 17, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

Page 15

Sports news in brief

FRMS wrestlers win matches

Fort Riley Middle School's wrestlers competed Dec. 8 against teams from Anthony and Eisenhower schools in Manhattan.

Trooper wrestlers Jason Chun and Larry Mitchell won matches against Anthony wrestlers.

Cody Merritt, Lance Harlow, Dalton Wagenblast, Jordan Fuller, Matt Miller and Mitchell won matches against Eisenhower wrestlers.

Tournaments set for holidays

The Fort Riley Sports Office staff has scheduled a battalion level holiday basketball tournament and holiday racquetball tournament Dec. 20-23.

For more information, call 239-2813.

Firearms range will be open

Fort Riley's range for privately owned firearms will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 18 and 19, weather permitting, according to volunteer range coordinator Stephen Bachelor.

The range is usually open despite inclement weather. If the range is to be closed because of severe weather or extreme cold or heat, the range officer scheduled for duty will notify Range Control and Outdoor Recreation.

Military police man the gate to the range area and inspect for range pass and that all weapons have the proper Provost Marshal's Office registrations. The vehicle pass for the range can be picked up at the Outdoor Recreation Center.

Firearms owners also can register weapons at the Outdoor Rec Center, although it is recommended owners take a list of their weapons and serial numbers they wish to shoot at Range 9 to the PMO's Physical Security Office. Staff in that office will issue the proper paper work once the process is completed.

All users of the POF Range must possess a valid Department of Defense ID card and a Fort Riley weapons registration form for their firearm. All users of the POF range must have a valid POV pass before driving north of Vinton School Road.

All shooters must bring their own hearing protection. No water is available at Range 9. Target stands and targets are available at no charge at Range 9.

For more information, call Bachelor at 239-1525.

Pool lifeguard training slated

Lifeguard training will be offered from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 27-30 at Eyster Pool. Participants must be at least 15 years old and able to pass a swimming test.

Fee for the training is \$65 and a lifeguard training book and CPR mask needed for the training can be bought at the Manhattan American Red Cross office.

For more information, call the Fort Riley Sports Office at 239-2148.

Troopers' wrestler captures title

Fort Riley Middle School grappler wins 100-pound tournament crown

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

A 100-pound Fort Riley Middle School wrestler beat all opponents to claim the championship title in his weight class at the 22nd annual FRMS seventh- and

eighth-grade wrestling tournament Dec. 11.

Four other FRMS wrestlers placed second or fourth in their weight classes at the tournament contested in Shenk Gym at Junction City High School.

Jason Chun drew a bye in the first round of the 100-pound

matches. He went on to defeat Andrew Callabresi of Lakewood and Jason Lutz of Logan before meeting Trevor Tillett of McPherson in the championship match.

Cody Merritt placed second in 85-pound competition. Merritt also drew a bye in the first round, and then went on to defeat Travis

Dolan of Salina South and Adam Tignor of Logan before losing the championship match to Justin Rose of Emporia.

Larry Mitchell faced Adam Rogers of Logan in the opening round of 180-pound matches. He went on to defeat Will Raiden of Junction City Middle School

before losing to Austin McCallister of JCMS in the championship match.

Regis Bigness placed fourth in the 75-pound weight class, defeating Riley Smith of JCMS and Parker Erickson of Herington

See Wrestlers, Page 16

Big guns battle

Armor outguns artillery, 56-41

By April Blackmon
Staff writer

After scoring just seven points in the first half, Tierre Sclovell exploded in the second, adding 15 more to lead Company C, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, to a 56-41 victory Dec. 9 against Battery C, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, in Northern League play.

Dreadnaught Coach Louis Gonzales credited defensive play as the key to his team's victory.

"Stealing. The little guys played big on steals, fast breaks. Our rebounding - offensive rebounding - was good, too," he said.

Btry. C was unable to come back from the 25-19 deficit in the first half. Adrian Rich scored 11 points for his team in the first half, aided by four points from Shamarr Ford.

Evan Jones led Btry. C's second-half offense, scoring seven while Rich was held to four. Ford dropped in five for Btry. C.

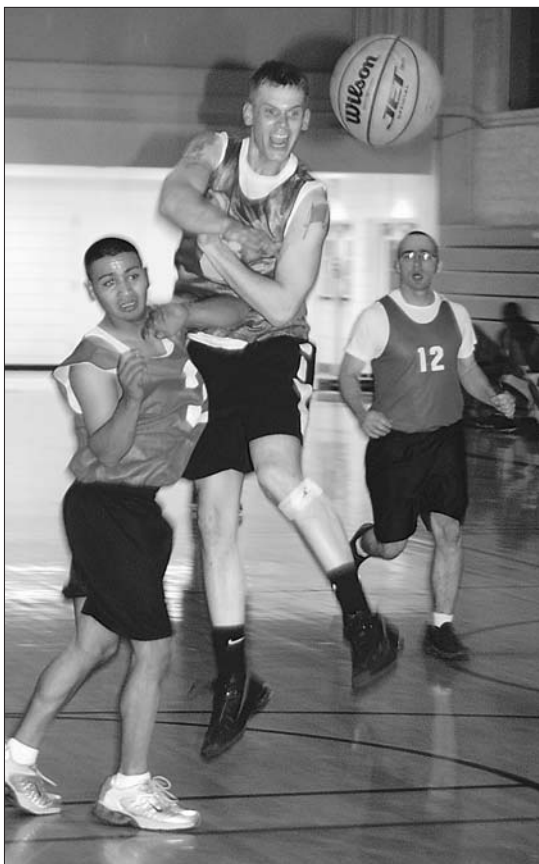
Btry. C Coach Robert Irvine said his squad's lack of teamwork was the main factor in their defeat.

"We can't have a bunch of individuals out there playing. If they can't play together, then you don't have a team. You might as well just play one-on-one with five people - five different games going on at the same time," he said.

Steven Martinez added nine points, Benji French put up eight and Jelfet Whyles scored seven for the Dreadnaught offense.

More basketball

Read story about Dec. 6 game and see more photos on page 16.



Eric Scarnegie of Btry. C, 4th Bn., 1st FA, whips a pass over the arms of Rammond Flores of Co. C, 2nd Bn., 34th Armor, Dec. 9 in Northern League company basketball action at King Field House. Benji French (12) of Co. C, 2nd Bn., 34th Armor, rushes to take up a defensive position. The Armor outshot the artillery 56-41.

Northern League Standings

(as of Dec. 9)

Team	W	L
HHC, 2-34	1	1
C-4-1 FA	0	2
C-2-34 AR	1	1
HBB, 4-1 FA	2	0

Southern League Standings

(as of Dec. 8)

Team	W	L
10th ASOS	1	1
HHC, 24th ID	1	0
USA MEDDAC	1	0
15th PSB	0	2
172nd Chemical	1	0
HHC, 1st Eng Bn	0	1
Touch of Grey	0	0
15th Finance	0	0
523rd MPs	0	0

Western League Standings

(as of Dec. 9)

Team	W	L
331st Signal	1	0
HHC, 1-16	1	0
HBB, 1-5	1	0
A-1-5	0	0
B-1-5	0	1
Co. B, 101st FSB	0	1
HHC, 1-34	0	1
C-1-34	0	1
A-1-34	1	0

Post to offer hunting, fishing permits soon

Riley fishing permit replaced with wildlife department's fish stocking plan



Alan Hynek

By Alan Hynek
Fish and Wildlife Biologist

Fort Riley will begin selling its hunting and fishing permits for 2005 a couple weeks in advance. Permits sold beginning Dec. 18 will be good for the remainder of 2004 and all of 2005.

There is one catch, but it's a good one. Beginning Jan. 1, a Fort Riley permit will no longer be required to

fish on post. However, a KDWP Fishing or Combination Permit will be required to fish on Fort Riley.

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks will reimburse the installation for lost revenue from the sale of permits though in-kind stocking of Fort Riley's ponds and lakes.

A KDWP Trout Stamp will be required to fish for trout in Moon

On the Wildside: News About Nature

Lake beginning Feb. 17. Because the lake has multiple species, any trout unintentionally caught by persons not in possession of a State Trout Stamp must be returned to the water immediately.

The State Trout Stamp costs \$11 and is valid in any of the 22 trout streams and ponds managed by the state.

Moon Lake will continue to be Fort Riley's trout fishery as construction around Cameron Springs continues. The initial trout stocking by KDWP on Feb. 17 will include some fish weighing as much as two pounds.

As early as June 2005, the Conservation Division will provide two additional methods to purchase a Fort Riley Hunting Permit. They will be available through the Internet and

See Wildside, Page 16





Victor Martinez of Btry. B, 1st Bn., 5th FA, shoots a layup Dec. 7 against a HHB, 5th FA, defender, in company level basketball play at King Field House.

Post/Blackmon



Post/Blackmon

Victor Martinez (white jersey) of Btry. B, 1st Bn., 5th FA, and Christian Towaski (34) of HHB, 1st Bn., 5th FA, grab for a loose ball as Jenel Brock (11) closes the defense against Martinez.

'Steel Fighters' rain shots to win

By April Blackmon
Staff writer

Christian Towaski hit for 12 points to help Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, defeat a sister unit, Company B, 1st Bn., 5th FA, 48-26, Dec. 7 at King Field House.

"This is our first time really getting out there as an organiza-

tion. Everybody came together. We just let loose at the end," said HHB Coach Jenel Brock, who added that the team did well despite not having a chance to practice.

The HHB "Steel Fighters" took a first-half 18-12 lead over their inter-battalion rivals with Towaski's help. He scored six in that half. Teammates Derrick Wilson dropped in five and Louis Jones scored four in the

first half.

Co. B couldn't capture the lead at anytime during the game. Despite the 11-point performance by Wesley Smith, the team fell further behind in the second half. Lack of strong boards and solid defensive efforts played a role in the team's loss.

"We need to work on defense. They scored 45 points on us," said Co. B's Victor Martinez.

"But, with no practice and just coming back, we did all right." The company just returned from about a month of training at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif.

Andrew Smith put up nine game points for the Steel Fighters. Jones added seven and Syndicate Walker scored six.

Martinez scored seven for Co. B, while Johnny Cornejo tallied four points.

Wrestlers

continued from page 15

before losing to Cody Davidson of McPherson in the winners' bracket.

Bigness moved into losers' bracket matches and defeated Ryan Calderwood of Logan before losing to third-place finisher Tyler Trahon of Emporia.

Matthew Miller claimed fourth place in 165-pound competition. He defeated Chelsea Diggs of Anthony in the opening match and then lost to Sean Twiggs of JCMS, moving him into losers' bracket matches. In that bracket, he defeated Ethan Grennan of McPherson before losing to third-place finisher Chris Parker of Salina South.

Illness and family obligations pared the FRMS Troopers squad to 10 wrestlers for the tournament. All 10 wrestlers won at least one match in the tournament, the first time that has happened in the tournament's 22-year history, according to one coach.

Troopers Bria Jimenez (120 pounds), Jerry Jordan (134 pounds) and Jordon Fuller (155 pounds) won one match each. Jeremy Beale (100 pounds) won two matches, and Jeremy Herman (95 pounds) won three matches.

Ten middle schools sent teams to the tournament. About 225 wrestlers competed in 18 weight classes ranging from 75 pounds to 265 pounds.

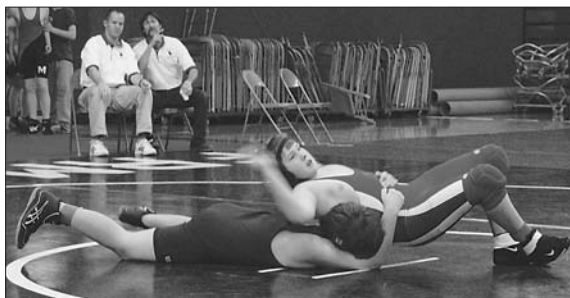
At right: Fort Riley Middle School Jerry Jordan, 134 pounds, watches the referee while making a move to escape his Herington opponent, Cameron Alvarez, during the 22nd annual FRMS seventh- and eighth-grade wrestling tournament Dec. 11 at Junction City High School.

Post/Heronemus



Post/Heronemus

Fort Riley Middle School wrestler Jeremy Beale (right) ties up his opponent, Brando Gardner of Lakewood, in a first-round 100-pound weight class match at the 22nd annual FRMS seventh- and eighth-grade wrestling tournament Dec. 11 at Junction City High School.



Fort Riley Middle School wrestler Regis Bigness takes the top advantage over Junction City Middle School wrestler Riley Smith in the first round of the 85-pound weight class competition.

Post/Heronemus



Salina Powersports
3 x 2.5"
Black Only

Toy gift equals K-State ticket

KSU Sports Information

MANHATTAN – Kansas State University is asking its basketball fans to give when they attend the Dec. 18 men's game against Texas-San Antonio.

In return, they'll receive.

The Wildcats are joining Fort Riley's Operation Santa Claus toy drive by requesting fans give a new toy or make a minimum cash donation of \$5 when they enter Bramlage Coliseum for the 7 p.m. game.

Fans will be rewarded with a free admission to the game for each toy they donate. During the game, K-State will be giving away selected Holiday Packs, which include tickets to the men's games scheduled for Dec. 21, 28 and 30 and Jan. 3, and the women's game on Jan. 2.

Operation Santa Claus is in its ninth year with Soldiers at Fort Riley collecting toys and money to brighten the holidays for families in need at Fort Riley and in the surrounding communities. "Elves" from Fort Riley will be stationed at coliseum entrances to receive toys before the Texas-San Antonio game.

Wildside

continued from page 15

through local vendors.

The cost for purchasing the Fort Riley Hunting Permit from KDWP through a vendor will be \$17.15. An Internet purchase from your home computer will be \$17.38. Permits purchased at the Outdoor Recreation Center, Building 9011, will remain \$16 in 2005.

Retired Department of the Army civilians can get ID cards similar to Army retiree ID cards that will allow them to hunt with a firearm south of Vinton School Road. They will have to fill out a DD Form 1172 at the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center and have a copy of their SF50 showing they are retired.

Retired nonappropriated fund employees will need their retirement letter from the NAF Employee Benefits Office.

Retired civil service and NAF employees will then need to present their documentation to the ID Card Section to get their card.

Military training will significantly reduce the amount of recreational areas available for the second segment of the Fort Riley Firearms Deer Season. A major portion of the installation will be unavailable on Dec. 20 and 21. Dec. 19 and 22 will have some minor areas closed. Dec. 23 is unchanged at this time.

Information about areas closed to hunting is available at the Conservation Office, Building 1020.

As always, military training takes precedence over announced hunting seasons. All or portions of the installation may close at any time without prior notice. For more information, call the Conservation Office at 239-6211.

Sports news in brief

Welcome new year at lanes

Authorized users can ring in the New Year at the Custer Hill Bowling Center from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Dec. 31 and Jan. 1. The evening will include bowling, music, food and fun. DJ Big Daddy will be mixing it up for bowlers' enjoyment. Each lane will get party favors and a bottle of champagne (for those parties of legal drinking age) to toast in the new year as the ball drops.

Breakfast will be provided. The kitchen will be serving S.O.S., scrambled eggs, hash browns, biscuits, coffee and orange juice. For those who make reservations, lanes of up to six people can party for \$75. For those who pay at the door, the cost of the evening is \$90.

For more information or to reserve a lane, call Custer Hill Bowling Center at 239-4366.

Aerobics class offered on post

Aerobics classes are offered at King Field House from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays.

Aerobics classes cost \$2 per class if paid in advance. For more information, call 239-2813.





Leisuretime ideas

At the movies:

The Barlow Post Theater Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Shows begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for Children 5 to 11 years old and free for children under age 5, except during children's matinees or expected sell-outs.

Dec. 17 – The Incredibles (PG)

Dec. 18 – 2 p.m., The Polar Express (G)

Dec. 18 – After the Sunset (PG-13)

Dec. 19 – Saw (R)

Dec. 23 – The Polar Express (G)

For more information, call 784-2226 or 784-2640.

Manhattan:

What: Little Apple New Year's Eve 2004. On New Year's Eve day, start with shopping, fun, food, and party atmosphere at Manhattan establishments, and then join the crowd before midnight at the intersection of Manhattan and "Broadway" (Moro) to culminate your festivities with the Little Apple New Year's Eve Celebration/Ball Drop.

When: 11 p.m. to 12:15 a.m. Dec. 31-Jan. 1

Where: 623 N. Manhattan Avenue

Phone: (785) 539-0511

Admission: Free

Hutchinson:

What: Luminaria. Enchanting evening of hayrack rides, refreshments and glowing luminaries.

When: 6 to 10 p.m. Dec. 18

Where: Hyde Park

Phone: (620) 662-1517

Admission: Free

Wichita:

What: Christmas on the Homefront. An engaging journey back in time that allows visitors to relive the hardships and the solidarity of Christmas during WWII.

When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday through Jan. 7

Where: 835 E. First St., Museum of World Treasures

Phone: (316) 263-1311

Admission: \$6-\$8

• • •

What: Lights of St. Paul. Sights, sounds, and atmosphere of the holiday season.

When: 6 to 9 p.m. Sunday

through Thursday and 6 to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday through Dec. 28

Where: 2919 W. Second St.

Phone: (316) 941-0673 or (800) 288-9424

Admission: Free

Abilene:

What: Seelye Mansion Christmas Tour. Trees, poinsettias, and beautiful decorations are used throughout the home. Featured on HGTV Christmas Castles in 2000.

When: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1 to 6 p.m. Sunday through Jan. 4

Where: 1105 N. Buckeye

Phone: (785) 263-1084

Admission: \$5 to \$10

• • •

What: Lebold Mansion Christmas Tours. Christmas décor of 1880s Victorian home.

When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Jan. 2

Where: 106 N. Vine

Phone: (785) 263-4356

Admission: \$10

Lake Shawnee:

What: Winter Wonderland. Drive through Lake Shawnee's campground with a million lights on 30+ displays decorating the park. New displays annually.

When: 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday and Sunday through Dec. 31

Where: Lake Shawnee

Phone: (785) 267-1156

Admission: \$5 donation

Rantoul:

What: Memory Lane Display and Christmas Tree Farm. View over 36 figures and scenes, some animated, while winding through the Christmas tree farm.

When: 5:30 to 10 p.m. through Dec. 28

Where: 2710 Vermont Road

Phone: (785) 878-3793 or (800) 296-6745

Admission: \$3 per car

Edgerton:

What: Christmas at Lanesfield. Discover a turn of the 20th-century holiday. Make an old-fashioned ornament, tour the historic schoolhouse decorated for the season.

When: 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday through Jan. 5

Where: Lanesfield School Historic Site

Phone: (913) 893-6645

Admission: Free

Classified
4 x 2L25"
Black Only

HAMBRIGHT, CALCAGNO & DOWNING,
2 x 8"
Black Only
#5466/Troy State University





Travel & Fun in Kansas

Holiday spirit lights up Junction City



This home sits on the south side of Skyline Drive about a block west of the Webster Street intersection. Several other homes nearby also are decorated for the season.

Post/Heronemus

Drive around town brightens outlook on Christmas season

By Mike Heronemus

Editor

Holiday cheer glows brightly on the streets of Junction City, and the decorations offer a twinkling invitation to spend some time

soothing and aching at the sights. It's one of those free holiday happenings that Carolyn Tolliver-Lee recommends as a way to beat the season's stress and some unwanted holiday sadness in her commentary on page 5 of this issue of the Post.

A reconnaissance mission early this week discovered that dense pockets of home decorations are lighting up a variety of neighborhoods, but many streets in the city boast a number of decorated homes. Casual hunters of holiday dec-

orations will have no difficulty finding brilliant displays just about anywhere they drive. Some of the displays discovered during that reconnaissance patrol are shown on this page. Most were located on the same block or just a couple of blocks

away from many more decorated homes. Some neighborhoods really worth driving through:

- Greenhills, located west of Eisenhower Drive and north of Ash Street;
- Indian Hills, located west of

- U.S. Highway 77 and north of McFarland Drive;
- the length of Skyline Drive; homes west of Washington Street and between Sixth and Ash Streets; and
- homes west of Garfield Street and south of Ash Street.



This home on Robinhood Drive in Indian Hills combines Santa and Mrs. Claus with a manger scene.

Post/Heronemus



This home on West Chestnut Street, near the intersection with Adams Street, lights up its Christmas to all passersby.

Post/Heronemus



This home on Winona in Indian Hills almost blazes with holiday color and warmth.

Post/Heronemus

BRIGGS AUTO GROUP, INC.
3 x 10.5"

Pull Color/300.5 bridge used

